

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on October 27, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Boles post office located in Boles, Arkansas. The petition for review was filed by Carlene Stovall (Petitioner) and is postmarked October 17, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than November 14, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: November 2, 2011

Attachment

Received

OCT 24 2011

Office of PAGR

A 2012-37 Carlene Stovall

14996 Smokehouse Rd.
RECEIVED
Boles, Arkansas 72926

2011 OCT 27 P 1:59

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 16, 2011

Postal Regulatory Committee

901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

DOCKET NUMBER 1355351 – 72926 (Number on the Final Determination to Close Letter)

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask for an appeal or a reversal on the impending closure of the Boles Post Office that is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2011.

If our post office closes our community will have to drive 30 miles round trip to another town to by a money order, stamp, label etc. This is not only a major inconvenience but also impossible for some of our elderly and disable that can no longer drive long distances.

I have used my Boles post office for my eBay business and have generated good postal revenue this year alone.

I read the "Letter of Determination" posted at the Boles Post Office, and first of all, I think it is terrible that the Postal Service is charging 50 cents a page for a copy! That is like a slap in the face to me and my community.

I would like to point out 2 errors in the content of the Letter of Determination.....

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS – The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$49,379

These are **INCORRECT FIGURES** – I know for a fact that we do not have a Postmaster because I know he retired a few years ago and this post office has a OIC or Clerk in place now. The OIC does not receive any benefits.

SALARY STATED OF \$33,168 IS INCORRECT & FRINGE BENEFITS OF \$11,111 IS ALSO INCORRECT

As Far as the Annual Lease Costs of \$5,100....I do not understand why the Postal Service did not Purchase this small building and have ownership of it instead of paying rent for it.

The growth of online sales like eBay, Amazon, Overstock.com & other online business's have been a major profit for the USPS Shipping. Just these online business's have generated millions and millions of

dollars that the postal service didn't make 20 years ago and small community post offices were not threatened of closing then.

I think these profits should be able to cover the small community post offices that just get by.

Also, the excessive advertising alone on the "Flat Rate, if it fits it ships" commercials could be cut down some of those advertising dollars could be used to help the communities that depend on daily postal service since the 1800s.

I know this is a new age we are evolving in to.... but the welfare of our people and the communities they represent are our lifeline to our history and future. These little post offices hold these communities together.

In closing, I would like to point out that although each community is focused on saving their own local post office, it is hard to see the larger picture; which is the total number of people combined from all the communities in this crisis, which is in the thousands . That is a substantial amount of lives that the postal service is affecting in such a negative way.

Please reconsider the closing of Boles Post Office and any further hardship on our small community.

Sincerely,


Carlene Stovall

14996 Smokehouse Road

Boles, Arkansas 72926

REDACTED

Barbara Pickett
OIC
Wrong salary
no benefits



Date of Posting: 09/29/2011

Date of Removal: 10/31/2011

FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE
THE BOLES, AR POST OFFICE
AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1355351 - 72926

Boles is an unincorporated community located in SCOTT County. The community is administered politically by Scott County. Police protection is provided by the Scott County Sherrifs Dept. Fire protection is provided by the Boles Volunteer Fire Dept. The community is comprised of retirees, farmers, commuters, self-employed and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Y City VFD Boles VFD Boles Free Will Baptist Church Chant Pentecostal Church of God Boles Southern Baptist Church, E Z Mart Fred's Country Cookin' Jim's Tree Service Gran's Mountain Wellness Renaissance Network Able Too Enterprises Roger's Trailer Sales FNG Farms B & B Roofing Red Barn at Y City A.J. Wing & Assoc. Larry's Taxidermy T&L Recovery Y City Mountain Inn and Campground Parks Masonry The Inn & The Cottage at Midway HARKO Woodworks Herr Aviation HiQK9 Training Ctr. Full Moon Adv. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Boles Post Office will be available at the Waldron Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Waldron Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry.

1 **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity

Response:

A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Community name and ZIP Code in addresses.

2 **Concern:**

Customers felt the loss of a Post Office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.

Response:

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will not adversely affect the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on May 01, 2009. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 49,379 with a breakdown as follows

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 33,168
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,111
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 5,100</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 49,379
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 0</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 49,379</u>

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration